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State of Vermont.

To Brigadier General Roger Enos, and William Page Esqr

Gentlemen,

By Advice of sundry Members of the Council of this State, you are hereby appointed and empowered to repair forthwith to the Assembly of New Hampshire, and in Conjunction with Col. Ira Allen (already there by appointment of the Governor) use your Endeavours that said Assembly consider and concur in the Proposals made to them for Settlement of the Dispute between the two States, relative to Jurisdiction, and agree on Measures to prevent Hostilities till an equitable and impartial Determination of the said Disputes can be obtained.

Elisha Payne. Lieut. Governor.

Charleston, December 21. 1781.

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Exeter, December 21. 1781.

Sir,

You will herewith receive a Duplicate of our Commission to attend the General Court of New Hampshire, and have to add, that notwithstanding one of our Colleagues William Page, Esq; being confined in Goal, contrary (as we conceive) to the Laws of States or Nations, We are so desirous of an Accommodation, that we are ready to enter on the Business of our Mission.

We are, with Sentiments of Esteem,

Your humble Servants,

Roger Enos.

Ira Allen.

The Honorable
Josiah Bartlett, Esq; President.

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To the Honorable Committee of Congress.

Whereas the State of Vermont hath formed Jurisdictional Union with the People inhabiting a District of Land

known by the Name of the New Hampshire Grants east of Connecticut River, on Apprehension that the said District does not of Right belong to New Hampshire, also with a District twenty Miles in Breadth lying west of New Hampshire Grants, on Apprehension that it does not of Right belong to the State of New York, by Means of which Union it is impracticable for the People on the New Hampshire Grants west of Connecticut River only, to perform any public Act as a State, exclusive of the Districts above mentioned, and that the Claims of the People on the said Districts to Independence from the said States of New Hampshire and New York respectively, may have a full and fair Hearing, and that a final Decision may be had thereon as soon as may be; therefore the Subscribers, Delegates from, and in Behalf of the State of Vermont, beg Leave to propose the following as Terms, which appear to them necessary in order to a federal Union between that and the United States:

1st. That Vermont be recognized as an Independent State, under the following Descriptions, i. e. Vermont in its old Boundaries west of Connecticut River.

2d. That Delegates to represent the State of Vermont in Congress, be elected by the Representatives of the Freemen of said State as it is now extended, until the several Claims of New Hampshire and New York to the said Districts be heard and determined.

3d. That the several Claims of New Hampshire and New York be determined as soon as may be, and agreeable to the Mode prescribed by the Articles of Confederation for Decisions of Disputes between two or more States concerning Boundary, Jurisdiction, &c.

4th. That Vermont have the same Right as any other State, on Application to Congress to have a Hearing on the said Disputes, and be admitted in like Manner by their Agents, (to be appointed for that purpose) as a Party in Support of the Claim of the People within the said Dis-

tricts to Independence from the said States of New Hampshire and New York respectively, and in Case that on Trial the Districts aforesaid, shall be found not to belong of Right to the States of New Hampshire and New York respectively, they shall be thence forth considered as belonging to the Jurisdiction of the State of Vermont.

Jonas Fay.
Ira Allen.
Beza. Woodward.

Philadelphia, August 18. 1781.

Charlestown, December 21, 1781.

Sir,

I herewith transmit to your Honor a Copy of Orders received from the in chief of the State of Vermont issued in consequence of coercive Measures persuing by New Hampshire, from which you will learn my situation. Inclination and Duty conspire to induce compliance with any Measures which Reason and Justice may point out, to avert threatening Hostilities, pregnant, not only with the horrors of Civil War, but also the greatest Injury to the United States, whose Interest is our Desire, as well as yours to support; have therefore by advice of sundry Members of the Council of this State, and other Gentlemen of Influence and Consideration now present, appointed Brigadier General Enos, and William Page, Esq: in Conjunction with Col. Ira Allen, (already appointed by the Governor to wait on your Assembly) to state before the said Assembly the reasonableness of the late Proposals of the Legislature of Vermont, transmitted to your Honor by a Committee appointed by said Legislature for that purpose, for a Settlement of the Disputes between New Hampshire and Vermont.

You must be sensible it has ever been our Idea to have Justice and Equity take place in the Decision, and therefore by the Advice aforesaid, renew Proposals

that the Controvercy in respect to the Territory, the Jurisdiction of which is in dispute between the said States, be decided by an impartial Tribunal or Principles of Right and Equity in the Mode Congress have pointed out by Articles of Confederation of the United States in Cases where Disputes arise between two or more States, in respect to boundary Jurisdiction &c. Vermont being allowed equal privileges as the other Party in support of their Claim. And that Hostilities between the said States, be suspended till such Trial can be had.

We doubt not a Compliance on the Part of Vermont with the foregoing Proposals, which appear to us equitable and just, and are persuaded that New Hampshire are so possessed with Principles of Justice and Equity as shall induce a Compliance on their Part, and hope for their favorable Answer to lay before the Assembly of Vermont, for their Concurrence at their Meeting on the last Thursday in January Next.

In Case New Hampshire refuse Compliance with equitable Terms, (as we view the foregoing) and are determined on Hostilities previous to Attempts for an amicable ~~Settlement~~, shall find myself under the disagreeable necessity to execute the Orders I have received, in raising the Force of Vermont to repel Encroachments on its Jurisdiction, exercised by Consent of the People, and which I doubt not their most Spirited Exertions to support till the Dispute is decided, confident that New Hampshire, in Case they commence Hostilities, must be accountable for the Consequences.

I have the honor to be, with Esteem and Respect,

Sir, Your Honor's most obedient and most

humble Servant, Elisha Payne,

His Honor Meshech Weare Esq; Lieut Governor.

President of the Council of New Hampshire.